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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,590	08/05/2003	Kenichi Hanamata	3864/0N107US0	1377
7278	7590	09/09/2005	EXAMINER	
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257			MANCHO, RONNIE M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3663	

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/635,590	Applicant(s) HANAMATA, KENICHI	
	Examiner Ronnie Mancho	Art Unit 3663	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2005.
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-10 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In amended claim 1, the applicant claims "said function checker outputting a predetermined control signal into said control unit when said function checker receives a predetermined signal from various vehicle information data". The applicant specifically refers the examiner to page 6, lines 12-26 of the specification. This limitation is not taught in the specification as applicant claims. Although part of the limitation "said function checker outputting a predetermined control signal into said control unit" is taught on the said page 6, the specification does not teach the time or *when the predetermined control signal is outputted* by the function checker as claimed by the applicant. That is the limitation "when said function checker receives a predetermined signal from various vehicle information data" is not taught.

Claims 2, 4-6 are rejected for depending on rejected base claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishii et al (5553488).

Regarding claim 1, Ishii et al (figs. 2&3; cols. 5&6) disclose a control unit 51 for a vehicle having a self-diagnosis function for self-diagnosing a verification of a reception of a signal concerning a switch (col. 5, lines 23-44) based on various vehicle information data, comprising:

Connecting means for connecting a function checker 27, said function checker 27 (fig. 2) outputting a predetermined control signal into said control unit 51 (col. 5, lines 56 to col. 6) when said function checker receives a predetermined signal from the various vehicle information data, wherein said predetermined control signal causes said control unit 51 to activate said self-diagnosis function to establish a self-diagnosis mode (col. 6, lines 21-67).

Regarding claim 2, Ishii et al disclose the control unit according to claim 1, wherein said control unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as the vehicle information data to the function checker.

Regarding claim 4, Ishii et al disclose the control unit according to claim 2, wherein the function checker displays a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode based on the received vehicle information data.

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Regarding claim 5, Ishii et al disclose the control unit according to claim 1, wherein said control unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as an actuating control signal for controlling at least either one of a room lamp or an indicator lamp.

Regarding claim 6, Ishii et al disclose the control unit according to claim 2, wherein said control unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as an actuating control signal for controlling at least either one of a room lamp or an indicator lamp.

Regarding claim 7, Ishii et al (figs. 2&3; cols. 5&6) disclose a control system of vehicle for self-diagnosing a verification of a reception of signals from a plurality of switches, comprising:

- a control unit 51 provided with a self-diagnosis function (fig. 3; col. 6, lines 20-67) for verifying the reception of the signals from said switches;

- a function checker 27 connected with said control unit;

- a first communication line (fig. 3) connecting said control unit with a first switch to transmit a first signal issued from the first switch to said control unit;

- a second communication line (fig. 3) connecting said control unit with a second switch to transmit a second signal issued from the second switch to said control unit;

- a third communication line (fig. 3) for said function checker to catch the first signal from said first communication line; and

- a fourth communication line (fig. 3) for transmitting a pseudo signal of the second signal from said function checker to said control unit through said second communication line when said function checker receives the first signal,

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wherein said control unit 51 activates the self-diagnosis function to establish a self-diagnosis mode when receiving the pseudo signal of the second signal so that the reception of signals from the plurality of switches can be verified (cols. 5&6).

Regarding claim 8, Ishii et al disclose the control system according to claim 7, wherein said control unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as an actuating control signal for controlling at least either one of a room lamp or an indicator lamp.

Regarding claim 9, Ishii et al disclose the control system according to claim 7, wherein said first switch is the ignition switch.

Regarding claim 10, Ishii et al disclose the control system according to claim 7, wherein said second switch is a door switch, which needs no verification of a reception of a signal thereof.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 6/23/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant is arguing that the prior art does not disclose “that the external diagnosing unit 27 receives any signal from the ECU 51 before the self-diagnosis mode changes to the check mode”. In response, no such limitation is disclosed in the claims.

The applicant further states that the prior art “does not disclose or suggests a function checker outputting a predetermined control signal that causes the control unit to activate the self-diagnosis function”. In response such a limitation again was not disclosed as cited by applicant.

Further, the applicant cites that the prior art “does not disclose that the control unit activates the self-diagnostic function”. In response the examiner disagrees. The prior art columns 5&6 and the drawings disclose the limitation.

It is believed that the rejections are proper and thus stand.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Communication

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronnie Mancho whose telephone number is 571/272/6984. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs: 9-5.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ronnie Mancho
Examiner
Art Unit 3663

9/2/05


JACK KEITH
PRIMARY EXAMINER
SPE 3663